

The School of St Jude

Fighting Poverty Through Education



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Sebastian Gitbang

Dear All at the Rotary Club of Parkwood,

We are happy to introduce Mr Sebastian Gitbang, who has been part of The School of St Jude team since January 2006. In 2007, Sebastian was promoted as the Head of Social Studies Department, and in 2008 he was appointed Academic Head at the newly opened Usa Campus.



Sebastian is in his mid-thirties and a practicing Roman Catholic who belongs to the *Mwiraq* tribe. He lives in an area of Arusha called *Njiro*, with his wife *Lucy*, their 8-year old son *Rudolf* and 2-year old daughter *Emily*.

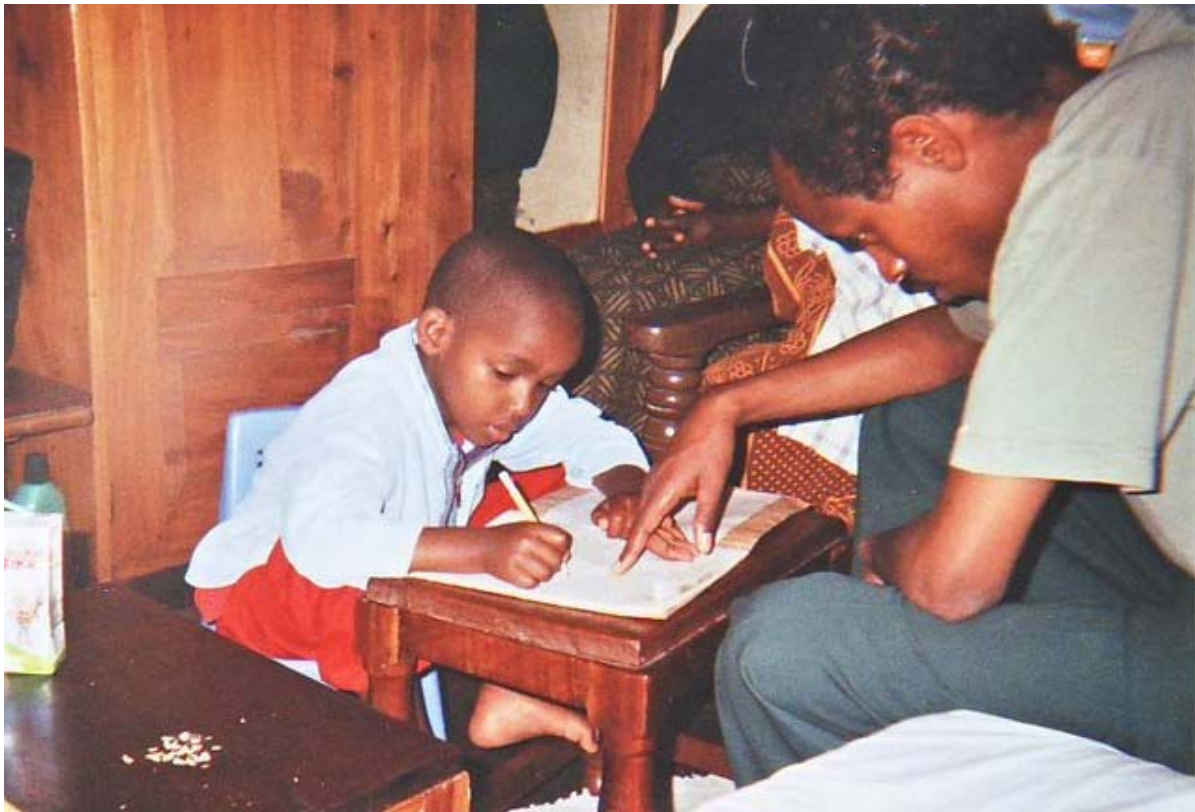


Sebastian with son Rudolf, wife Lucy and sleeping daughter Emily (2008)

When Sebastian is not working, he loves spending time with his family, reading books, watching football and listening to Gospel music. Sebastian is trilingual and speaks Kiswahili, English and French – not to mention his tribal language. Until his promotion as Head of Social Studies in 2007, Sebastian regularly attended advanced French lessons at the Alliance Française. Following his promotions and increased contact hours at school, Sebastian found that he could no longer commit to face-to-face classes in the evenings. However, this did not deter his ambitions and thirst for knowledge because Sebastian soon enrolled in a foundation course in computing, by correspondence, through the Open University of Dar es Salaam.



Proud father... Sebastian showing off his gorgeous, new born daughter in 2007!



Teaching isn't just a day job ...above, Sebastian helps his son, Rudolf with his homework!

We asked Sebastian a couple off questions to give you more of an insight into his personality....

Q: If you could have dinner with any three people, who would they be?

Sebastian: 1) *George Bush... to find out what exactly was going through his mind regarding Iraq during his administration!*; 2) *UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, I have only one question to ask ...“is UN one of the states of the USA?”*; 3) *Freda so I can learn more about teaching and leadership.* [Freda is American teacher trainers who conduct workshops at The School of St Jude a several times a year. These workshops commenced at the end of 2006.]

Q: Which country or city would you like to visit the most?

Sebastian: *France, so that I can learn more about the French language and culture.*



At the Academic Head's Desk!

At St Jude's, each class numbers approximately 24 students. Even though the school started in 2002 with only 3 children, it now has over 1150 students in primary/elementary school classes from Prep to Standard 7, across two campuses at *Moshono* and *Usa River*. All our students in Standard 4 and above also attend boarding school. In 2009, we opened our first secondary school class – Form 1. Each year we need to add on the next class level ... all the way to the end of secondary school – Form 6!

As you can appreciate, each time we add more students we also need to find motivated, dedicated, competent and qualified teachers to educate them. We are proud of the well trained and experienced Tanzanian teachers at St Jude's and acknowledge that without their professional attitude and hard work our students would not have the passion for learning and leadership skills being nurtured every day.

With other private schools competing for the relatively few high quality teachers in Tanzania, we are obliged to pay top end salaries and provide reliable transport, morning teas and hot lunches. Also, we offer our staff excellent teaching aids, well-stocked libraries, computer training, courses in modern teaching techniques and full-time mentors for continual advice and guidance. As such, we need around 12-15 sponsors for each teacher.



Sebastian (centre) and the Leadership Team at the Official Opening of St Jude's Usa River Campus in mid-2008. Classes at Usa River commenced in January 2008.



Sebastian receives an award from the Head of St Jude's Parents' Committee in recognition for his hard work and achievements as Academic Head during the first year of Usa River Campus' opening. (December 2008).

Rotarians, you will receive at least one update about Sebastian each year. Throughout the year you'll also receive letters and drawings from students at our Usa River Campus. All communication between you and Sebastian, however, must go through our sponsorship program. We keep your postal and email addresses confidential at all times. However all your communication will be passed along to Sebastian whether email, letter or postcard.

The school's success depends on the strong foundations provided by brilliant teachers and visionary leaders, so once again, thank you so much for helping Sebastian educate and lead the students at The School of St Jude.

Kind regards,

Gemma Lisia